

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 17, 2006, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 375, 376, and 377. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3085, "nay" on H.R. 3496, and "aye" on H.R. 3279.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHON SOLOMON

HON. RAÚL GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a great American who has recently passed away.

Last week, Jonathon Solomon, a leader and elder of the Gwich'in Nation, passed away in Alaska. A lifelong advocate on behalf of his people, Jonathon was an inspiration to many and was instrumental in the fight to protect the birthplace of the Porcupine Caribou Herd in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As a Traditional Chief of Fort Yukon, Jonathon was raised in the traditional subsistence lifestyle, depending on the Porcupine Caribou herd as his ancestors before him had for a millennium. To the Gwich'in, there is no more sacred place than the calving grounds of the caribou herd upon which their way of life depends. Jonathon was one of the leading Gwich'in voices on a myriad of issues. He halted the construction of a dam in the 1960's that would have flooded several Gwich'in villages, and was one of the first native leaders to work on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. However, it was protecting the sacred calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd that was the most significant issue in Jonathon's life.

His work to protect the Arctic Refuge began in 1978, when the House was debating the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. In 1988 when the House was considering oil drilling in the calving grounds in the Arctic Refuge, Jonathon helped organize the first Gwich'in Gathering. At the gathering, the Gwich'in Steering was created, and the first resolution of the Gwich'in Nation, calling for permanent protection of the caribou calving and nursery grounds as congressionally designated wilderness, was passed. In 2002, he and two other Gwich'in leaders were honored with the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for their work to protect the calving grounds in the Arctic Refuge.

I had the great honor of meeting Jonathon during one of his many trips to Washington, DC, to talk with Members about the threat of oil drilling to the way of life of the Gwich'in people. Jonathon was ever an optimistic advocate, dedicated to his people, and sure in his cause. His funeral will be today in Fort Yukon, Alaska, and it is my privilege to honor him this morning.

RECOGNIZING TYSON R. STARK
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyson R. Stark a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 41, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyson has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Tyson has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyson R. Stark for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING SHARON DALY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Sharon Daly and to congratulate her on being named a Human Needs Hero by the Coalition on Human Needs.

Sharon Daly has had a long, distinguished career serving the most vulnerable people in our society with a level of compassion and commitment that is unrivaled.

After hearing from numerous women escaping family violence that ineligibility for food stamps was a major hardship, Sharon played a vital role in convincing Congress that change was necessary. In 1980, federal law was changed so that women residing in battered women's shelters and families with high child care expenses could receive food stamps.

In addition, Sharon fought to secure benefits for people with disabilities and mental illness and played a critical role in garnering momentum for enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act as well as an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and family preservation/child welfare services.

In her almost 30 years of work in Washington, DC, Sharon has worked at the Children's Foundation, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Children's Defense Fund, and Catholic Charities USA. Additionally, she provided expert leadership on the Board of the Coalition on Human Needs, including serving as Chairwoman from 1994 to 2000. Her career has been marked by remarkable dedication to providing help to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my good friend Sharon Daly for an unparalleled career fighting for those who may be unable to fight for themselves, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, my train was delayed, and as a result, I missed three votes on July 17, 2006. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 375, regarding the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail; "aye" on rollcall vote No. 376, regarding Federal contributions to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 377, the Federal Judiciary Emergency Tolling Act.

MARRIAGE PROTECTION
AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the world around us is engulfed in a state of peril. Our soldiers in Iraq are facing increased violence, Israel is fighting a multi-state sponsored terrorist organization, India was ravaged by a series of rail bombings last week, development in Afghanistan is being stifled by warlords, North Korea is testing the limits of its neighbors with missile tests, Iran is testing the international community's patience and defying its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Mexico is heavily divided over its "Florida-like" uncertain presidential election, the humanitarian crisis in Sudan rages on.

Here in the homeland, we struggle to pick up the pieces after Katrina, millions of Americans are living in poverty, the minimum wage hasn't risen in nearly 10 years, we're short-changing our veterans coming home from Iraq, families are struggling to send their kids to college, school districts face confusion over the implementation of No Child Left Behind, seniors face difficulties paying for their prescription drugs, major cities are receiving less homeland security funds, and consumers are paying over \$3 a gallon at the pump.

How do we respond to these challenges? The Republican leadership says we should spend our time making sure that two adults who love each other cannot form a marriage. Is this why our founding fathers created the greatest democracy in the world—to keep people apart? Our country and our world deserve better than this. To say that the threat of same sex marriage is so great that it requires the alteration of our Constitution to include discriminatory language is a slap in the face to those that have fought for equality and civil rights.

We already debated gay marriage nearly two years ago with the Defense of Marriage Act. States that don't want to honor other states civil unions don't have to.

I believe that states should have the right to grant same-sex marriages or offer couples the same legal rights as those of other couples. I share this position with Vice President DICK CHENEY. This flagrant attempt to include discrimination into our Constitution is nothing but

election year politics and the American people deserve better.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL MOELLER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Moeller for being appointed and confirmed as Commissioner for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He was confirmed by the Senate last Friday and will serve in this position through 2010.

I have known Phil for over a decade and believe he has a unique background that will enable him to address the challenges and opportunities of our 21st century energy system. He is a native of Spokane, owns a farm in eastern Washington, and fully understands Northwest energy issues. Phil's work at the state and federal level, as well as in the private sector, has proven effective in his approach to solve problems but also strive to develop consensus on the most challenging issues.

Phil maintains the highest ethical and personal standards of achievement and conduct. His work ethic, combined with his in-depth knowledge of energy markets, hydroelectricity, oil and gas, transmission systems and our overall energy supply makes him ideal to serve as a Commissioner for FERC.

Phil served as energy policy advisor to former U.S. Senator Slade Gorton, and most recently served as the Washington representative for Alliant Energy Corp. He also worked for nearly 10 years as the staff coordinator for the Washington State Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Phil Moeller for his exceptional work to protect and develop Northwest energy and wish him the best of luck as he begins his new position as Commissioner for FERC.

ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE PUBLIC LAW CENTER IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Public Law Center for its 25 years of service to the people of Orange County, California.

Thousands of Orange County lower-income residents have benefited from the myriad of pro bono services that the PLC offers. The PLC has amassed an army of legal professionals to help our community. They hold community legal clinics every-other months. For more specific needs, they help refer clients to specialized private attorneys.

The PLC also provides assistance to local community organizations, the non-profits that understand all the challenges that our less fortunate Orange County brothers and sisters face. What would we do if we didn't have the PLC to help navigate the complicated world of employment contracts and housing agreements?

The PLC is there too for needy families, and to individuals with special needs, like people living with HIV/AIDS.

I am very grateful for the Public Law Center's work with members of the South East Asian community. Our Vietnamese community especially requires and deserves special attention, as they face legal and cultural challenges which are unique to them.

One challenge in particular is dealing with the awful scourge of human trafficking. I am proud to call the PLC a partner—along with St. Anselm's Cross Cultural Center, the cities of Santa Ana, Garden Grove and Westminster, along with other community organizations—in their work with the Orange County Human Trafficking Coalition. The U.S. Congress recently recognized the work of the Coalition by awarding it with a Federal law enforcement grant. While the Federal Government works with local law enforcement to arrest and prosecute the traffickers, the PLC and its partners work to provide services to victims. This cooperation is a model for public private cooperation.

In its 25 years, the Public Law Center has worked on countless cases, and its service to our community is immeasurable. I can only wish its board, staff and volunteers another 25 years of continued success and service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "PROTECTING CHILDREN'S HEALTH IN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2006"

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, helping children learn and be successful in life should be a priority for us. It is unfortunate the Bush administration does not agree. This bill, the "Protecting Children's Health in Schools Act of 2006", will stop the harmful Medicaid cuts proposed by the President so that disabled children can continue receiving the medical services they need in order to continue to learn in school. Without this bill, the administration's actions are placing children's health and education in jeopardy by leaving the brunt of the burden on already stretched State education systems.

Since 1986 Federal Medicaid policy has explicitly recognized the essential nature of the link between Medicaid and health care for low-income children whose special healthcare needs make management of and access to treatment in school settings an imperative. Recent actions by the administration, however, including audits and proposed regulatory cuts in payments to schools for providing healthcare services in the President's FY2007 budget, have created an atmosphere of uncertainty about the continued ability of children with serious and chronic health conditions to get the health care they need that will allow them to attend school in mainstream, community settings.

Rather than discouraging the provision of health care in schools, the administration should be providing extensive technical assistance to States to optimize children's opportunities to receive needed school-based health care. This would enable them to learn in community educational settings instead of being

forced to remain at home, which is fully permitted under the current law. Close to 7 million children currently receive education and related services through school districts ranging from assistive technology for students with hearing disabilities to personal aides for students with several developmental or physical disabilities. These services are determined, based on a student's medical needs, to be necessary for the "appropriate" education of that student.

This bill I am introducing with Representatives WHITFIELD, MILLER, and many others, would set forward clear guidelines in the statute for providing and receiving reimbursement for this care, rather than put schools, families, and their disabled children, and States in a situation where they are uncertain whether or not these medically-necessary services and the related administrative and transportation costs will be covered under Medicaid. This legislation has the support of the American Association of School Administrators, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition, the Council of Great City Schools, and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, among other organizations.

The administration's current moves and proposed budget cuts curtailing Medicaid coverage and provision of health services in schools endanger the health and educational opportunities for 7 million children. This bill, in essence, maintains and protects current law coverage for children with special needs.

TRIBUTE TO THE OWEGO, NEW YORK, FIRE DEPARTMENT HOSE TEAMS

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Owego, New York, Fire Department Hose Teams for placing first and second at the Central New York Firematic Hose Races on July 16, 2006, during the 113th Annual Central New York Firemen's Convention in New York Mills, New York.

In a superb victory, Owego's Susquehanna House Company #1 secured the overall points title, successfully defending its title from last year and winning its third and final leg on the overall traveling trophy. Three legs are required to retire the traveling trophy. This year's victory marks the second time the Owego team has successfully retired the trophy. Since the inception of firematic hose races in the 1940's, Owego has won 12 championships. In addition, Owego's Croton Hose #3 team finished second overall.

Team members for the Susquehanna House Company #1 included J.T. Fisher, Patrick Gavin, Tim Gavin, Danny Gavin, and Lou Striley. The Owego Fire Department proudly protects 26,000 residents, and its members participate on a volunteer status. Therefore, the winners deserve to be recognized not only for their excellent performance, but also for their outstanding service to the community as firefighters.

Both teams have donated their prize money, a total of \$350, to the Owego Fire Department